

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 9, 15, 20, 26, 36, 42, 47, 53, 63, 69, 74, 90, 96, 100, and 106 are being amended to be in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 13 is being amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 17-19, 28, 31, 33-35, 44-46, 58, 60-62, 71-73, 82, 85, 87-89, 98, and 99 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 9-16, 20-27, 36-43, 47-54, 63-70, 74-81, 90-97, and 100-107 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to claims 9-16, 20-27, 36-43, 47-54, 63-70, 74-81, 90-97, and 100-107 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9, 15, 20, 26, 36, 42, 47, 53, 63, 69, 74, 90, 96, 100, and 106 are being amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Each of claims 10-14, 16, 21-25, 27, 37-41, 43, 48-52, 54, 64-68, 70, 75-81, 91-95, 97, 101-105, and 107 depends from one of these independent claims. Thus, claims 9-16, 20-27, 36-43, 47-54, 63-70, 74-81, 90-97, and 100-107 are allowable.

Since claims 1, 4, 6-8, 17-19, 28, 31, 33-35, 44-46, 58, 60-62, 71-73, 82, 85, 87-89, 98, and 99 are hereby canceled, the Examiner's rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,610 to Traw et al. ("*Traw et al.*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,412,730 to Jones ("*Jones*") is moot.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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